

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00147 021642Z

17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 021608Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 721

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BELFAST 147

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: LONG KESH MAZE PRISON HEATING TO BOIL

REF: BELFAST 126

1. SITUATION MAZE PRISON DESCRIBED REFTEL CONTINUED GENERALLY THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER. VISITING AND FOOD PARCEL PRIVILEGES WERE SUSPENDED AND RESUMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH BEHAVIOUR PRISONERS AND VISITORS. BY LAST WEEK SEPTEMBER INMATES MANY COMPOUNDS ESPECIALLY LOYALISTS HAD CEASED THROW FOOD OVER WIRE AND WRE RECEIVING PARCELS AND VISITS. SEPT. 24 HOWEVER FIVE REPUBLICAN PRISONERS TREATED FOR INJURIES INCURRED WHILE RESISTING ATTEMPTS MOVE THEM FROM ONE COMPOUND TO ANOTHER. TROOPS APPARENTLY CALLED IN THIS INCIDENT. CONVICTED REPUBLICANS STATED THEY WOULD BURN DOWN CAMP UNLESS BEATINGS STOPPED. OCT. 1 DISCOVERY NEW ESCAPE TUNNEL ANNOUNCED AND SOME REPUBLICAN PRISONERS BROKE OUT OF COMPOUND AND INTO PRISON SHOP. VISITORS PROHIBITED AND SOME 20 OF THESE STAGED SIT IN AT GATE. OCT. 2 VISITS STILL SUSPENDED AND PROTESTING VISITORS BEGAN BURNING BUILDINGS AND STONING GUARDS, AUTOMOBILES AND HOUSES. TROOPS APPARENTLY NOT RPT NOT YET IN SIZEABLE CONFRONTATION WITHIN OR OUTSIDE COMPOUNDS BUT SINCE ARMY CONTROLS PERIMETER POTENTIAL IS THERE.

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2. RISING LEVELS OF PRISONER AND FAMILY RESISTANCE COUPLED WITH

INTENSE PUBLICITY EFFORTS DIRECTED AGAINST PRISON CONDITIONS.
RECENT EVENTS INDICATE REPUBLICAN AND LOYALIST PRISONERS NO
LONGER ACTING IN CONCERT. GIVEN REALITY EFFORTS OVER PAST MONTH
PART AUTHORITIES TO RESPOND LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES IT APPEARS
PRESIONERS MOTIVIATED BY OTHER CONCERNS. ONE MOTIVE COULD WELL
BE EMBARRASSMENT BRITISH GOVERNMENT ON EVE ELECTION.
SPICER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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